

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-10 L-03 NSF-02
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-09 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-15 INT-05 OIC-02 (ISO) W
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R 081727Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8644
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 17127

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ECE, EEC, CSCE
SUBJECT: ECE: SPECIAL GROUP ON LONG-RANGE TRANS-BOUNDARY
AIR POLLUTION

REF: STATE 216808

1. MISSION OFFICERS DISCUSSED COMMUNITY PREPARATIONS FOR
OCTOBER 2-4 EXPERTS MEETING IN GENEVA ON LONG-RANGE
TRANS BOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION (TBAP) WITH EC COMMISSION
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENVIRONMENT STANLEY JOHNSON
AND WITH EAST WEST RELATIONS STAFF MEMBER ERWAN FOUERE.
BOTH JOHNSON AND FOUERE WERE GIVEN COPIES OF TALKING
POINTS REFTEL AND WERE REQUESTED TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN
TO PARTICIPANTS IN SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT
GROUP OF THE EC COUNCIL.

2. ENVIRONMENT GROUP MET ON SEPTEMBER 7 AND, ACCORDING TO JOHNSON, AGREED WITH U.S. POINT OF VIEW THAT THE DRAFT NORDIC FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT IS A USEFUL INITIATIVE WHICH IS IN LINE WITH THE EC VIEW THAT SOME FORM OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT ON TBAP SHOULD BE DRAWN UP COVERING THE FOLLOWING BROAD PRINCIPLES:

-- THE NEED FOR RESEARCH INTO TOTAL QUANTITIES OF POLLUTANTS EMITTED, THEIR TRANS BOUNDARY EFFECTS, AND THE COSTS OF MONITORING AND REDUCING THEM.

. -- THE NEED FOR AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF MONITORING TBAP WHICH AVOIDS COSTLY BORDER MONITORING SCHEMES.

-- THE NEED FOR AN OPEN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON BOTH RESEARCH AND MONITORING DATA.

-- THE NEED FOR SOME KIND OF CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM AMONG STATES AFFECTED BY TBAP, WITH THE CAVEAT THAT AN AGREEMENT COULD NOT IMPLY THE IDEA OF ONE STATE VETOING THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF ANOTHER.

-- THE NEED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT MEASURES TO REDUCE TBAP.

3. JOHNSON SAID THAT THE NINE HOLD SIMILAR VIEWS TO THOSE OF THE U.S. ON THE IDEA OF AN ANNEX INCLUDING A COMMITMENT
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NOT TO PERMIT INCREASES IN EMISSIONS, OR A COMMITMENT TO REDUCTION BY A SPECIFIED PERCENTAGE. WHILE THE EC-9 WOULD WANT TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY ANY COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE ANNEX, JOHNSON SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE ADVERSE TO THE IDEA OF INTERNATIONALIZING COMMITMENTS ALREADY EXISTING UNDER EC REGULATIONS (HE MENTIONED, AS AN EXAMPLE, EC REGULATIONS ON THE SULPHUR CONTENT OF GASOIL). IN ANY CASE, THE EC WILL BE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT MAJOR COMMITMENTS WITHOUT A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTENTIONS OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. JOHNSON WONDERED WHAT GUARANTEES THERE WOULD BE OF EASTERN EUROPEAN ADHERENCE TO A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT IN LIGHT OF WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS LESS THAN FORTHCOMING EASTERN EUROPEAN ATTITUDE TO DATE ON SUPPLYING DATA.

4. THE ENVIRONMENT GROUP REAFFIRMED THE EC POSITION ON A HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON THE ENVIROMNENT, TO WIT: THAT ANY EXPERT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PRELIMINARY AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE EC POSITION TAKEN AT THE 33RD EC PLENARY IN GENEVA.

5. JOHNSON INFORMED MISSION OFFICER THAT THE ENVIRONMENT

GROUP HAD MANDATED THE COMMISSION TO DRAW UP A WORKING PAPER, BASED ON THE ABOVE PRINCIPLES, WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE ENVIRONMENT GROUP AT ITS SEPTEMBER 22 MEETING AND THEN BE PRESENTED TO THE OCTOBER EXPERTS MEETING. JOHNSON AND FOUERE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE U.S. VIEWS IN REFTEL AND ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF OUR THINKING. MCCARTHY

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